

We claim:

1. A bearing cleaning composition comprising an overbased calcium sulfonate grease, from about 3 to about 15 weight percent polishing agent and a minor effective amount of a colorant.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the overbased calcium sulfonate grease further comprises from about 30 weight percent to about 80 weight percent solvent neutral oil.

3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the solvent neutral oil has a viscosity of about 600 SUS at 100° F.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the overbased calcium sulfonate grease further comprises from about 30 weight percent to about 80 weight percent overbased calcium sulfonate.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the overbased calcium sulfonate has a total base number of about 400.

6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the grease further comprises from about 1 weight percent to about 5 weight percent alkylbenzene sulfonic acid.

7. The composition of claim 6 wherein the alkylbenzene sulfonic acid comprises C₁₀-C₁₆ alkylbenzene sulfonic acid.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the grease further comprises from about 1 weight percent to about 3 weight percent hexylene glycol.

9. The composition of claim 1 comprising from about 3 to about 10 weight percent polishing agent.

10. The composition of claim 9 comprising from about 8 to about 10 weight percent polishing agent.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polishing agent comprises powdered calcium carbonate.

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the polishing agent consists essentially of powdered calcium carbonate.

13. The composition of claim 11 wherein the polishing agent is marble dust.

14. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polishing agent has a mean particle size of about 2.5 microns.

15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the colorant is an azo dye.

16. The composition of claim 1 wherein the azo dye is 2-Napthalenol, 1-(phenylazo).

17. The composition of claim 1 wherein the colorant is present in an amount ranging from about 0.1 weight percent to about 1 weight percent.

18. A bearing cleaning composition made by combining from about 30 to about 80 weight percent solvent neutral oil, from about 30 to about 80 weight percent overbased calcium sulfonate, from about 3 to about 15 weight percent powdered calcium carbonate, from about 1 to about 5 weight percent alkylbenzene sulfonic acid, from about 1 to about 3 weight percent hexylene glycol; from about 1 to about 8 weight percent water, and from about 0.1 to about 1 weight percent colorant.

19. The composition of claim 18 wherein the colorant is an azo dye.

20. The composition of claim 19 wherein the azo dye is 2-Napthalenol, 1-(phenylazo).

21. The composition of claim 18 comprising from about 8 to about 10 weight percent powdered calcium carbonate.

22. The composition of claim 18 wherein the powdered calcium carbonate is powdered marble.

23. The composition of claim 22 wherein the powdered marble is marble dust.

24. A method for removing contaminated grease from and for cleaning bearings disposed inside of a bearing assembly while the bearing assembly is in service, the method comprising the steps of:

injecting into the bearing assembly at an injection site a sufficient amount of a visually identifiable bearing cleaning composition to flush contaminated grease from the bearing assembly and render the bearing cleaning composition visible from a side of the bearing assembly disposed opposite the injection site, the bearing cleaning composition comprising overbased calcium sulfonate grease, powdered calcium carbonate and a colorant;

operating the bearing assembly continuously for a run period of at least about 4 hours; and

thereafter flushing the bearing cleaning composition from the bearing assembly by injecting fresh replacement grease into the bearing assembly until the bearing cleaning composition is no longer exuded from the bearing assembly.

25. The method of claim 24 comprising the additional step of injecting additional bearing cleaning composition into the bearing assembly during the run period.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the run period lasts from 4 to about 8 hours.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein the injection site is a grease zert.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein the bearing cleaning composition comprises from about 3 to about 15 weight percent powdered calcium carbonate.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the bearing cleaning composition comprises from about 8 to about 10 weight percent powdered calcium carbonate.

30. The method of claim 24 wherein the colorant is an azo dye.